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Inside Burlington

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300 N. Pine Street
Burlington, WI 53105



The Mayor's Corner



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

I feel that is important that we look back every now and again as this helps us gain an insight as to where we are now and where we came from. It lets us see what was and compare that to what is.

Ten years ago our river front was home to Hi-Liter Graphics and several empty buildings that were falling into disrepair. The Wisconsin Central Railroad main line was running 15 trains a day through the city. If you were on the wrong side of the tracks, you had no choice but to wait for the train to clear. The Mills building was still standing. Our Fire Department and Building Inspector had declared the building a hazard. Our Industrial Park was filling up and we did not have any where for any new companies to locate.

We had one-way streets through our downtown. If you were entering Burlington from the south on STH 83 and wished to go downtown, you were stopped by a large sign that said "Do Not Enter, one-way traffic". Our downtown, once a thriving commercial hub was showing its age. Several local stores closed and the store fronts stood empty. Our downtown was the economic hub for Western Racine and Kenosha counties as well as eastern Walworth County. Over the years we went from being the hub to people having to leave town to shop because stores had closed. In short Burlington was starting to decay from the inside out.

We opened the Burlington Manufacturing and Office Park (BMOP), relocated Hi-Hiter Graphics there enticed Bassett Wheel and Veterans Trucking to relocate to Burlington. Circle Inc. also moved into the BMOP. There are now four lots left in this park and three of those are currently being looked at by outside companies that are thinking about relocating to Burlington.

The old and run down buildings that lined our river have been replaced by the Riverwalk. The Department of Commerce has made Burlington its poster child for redevelopment, citing the work that was done to and along the river here in the city. Bridge Street was put in which includes an overpass to allow traffic to flow even when one of the more that 30 trains a day roll through the city.

Commerce Street was rebuilt, the 100 year old water and sewer lines were replaced, and the street was resurfaced. The name was changed to Pine Street and then it was connected into West Chestnut Street. This allowed the one-way streets to become two-way once again.

The Mills building was acquired and torn down, removing another hazard and eyesore. Downtown as been declared a Historic District and the City has pumped over \$150,000 into matching grants to restore the store fronts. We have new business that have opened downtown and there are several unique shops now located there.

A land use plan was put together for the STH 83/36 corridor and implemented. Several new companies have opened here, Wal-Mart, Menard's, Aldi's, Taco Bell, just to name a few. These companies chose to locate here only after doing their research on the city. They saw how the city turned itself around and is moving in the right direction to once again become the hub we once were.

These changes did not just happen, they were made by the people of Burlington. People who care deeply about this city and people who watched this city fall into decay. People that had had enough of the decay, stepped forward, reached deep inside themselves, and made the changes they we take for granted today, happen.

Burlington, what a great city. We have so much happening and we have a great future ahead of us. Look at what is occurring now, the Mills site is now under consideration for development by an out of town developer. Kohl's is opening here, RexCon will be starting construction soon, the east By-Pass will open this fall, construction on the new Veterans Building will begin soon, and what an addition it will be for the City. I do not think a better location could have been found for this new Veteran's center. The Schaefer property will be on line next year, and they will be working with the High School students to reestablish the wet lands and walking trails on the property. What a great learning and hands on opportunity for our students.

What makes this city great? It is you, the people that live here. Your willingness to give back to this city, your time and when needed your money, to help when called upon. When the tornados swept through just south of us, we went and stood outside a store here in town asking people to buy needed items for the victims. As the customers left the store they were filling shopping carts with the requested items. There was one lady who, besides giving several cases of water, also handed me a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie, saying "Thank-you for standing out here in the cold and collecting these items." It is this type of caring about each other that makes this a great place to live.

Our Service Clubs and the volunteers that give so freely, of their time, to help those in need, and to keep this city safe are what makes this city great. I have always been humbled when I look at the number of clubs and volunteers, the hours that they give all without complaint or looking for anything in return. The look on their faces when they finish a project just makes my heart swell with pride, and it is that display of caring and dedication that makes me proud to say I am from Burlington.

Burlington is not without problems. We have many that will need to be addressed over the next couple of years. I have called for a budget planning session to occur this year, in order to go over the budget and attempt to make cuts, and then carry these cuts over into 2009. The State has already informed us that the most the tax levy can increase in 2009 is 2%. If City's costs increase next year by more than 2%, we will be into a larger deficit spending situation. The State is also claiming a deficit in the budget and if they turn to Shared Revenue to make it up it will also impact the City's budget.

One of first things seen by visitors that come to Burlington is the streets. We have in place a street repair/replacement program, where every street has been ranked as to its condition and the estimated year in which it will need to be replaced. I believe in this program and feel that we need to do everything we can to keep to this repair and replacement schedule. This has been a terrible year for pot holes. We will need to find the funds to tackle the pot holes, but I am confident that we will be able to address both the Street program and the pot holes within the confines of the budget.

Furthermore, I have asked the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that will allow the Council to appoint High School students to the City Council and the committees. We should be reaching out and involving our younger citizens giving them the opportunity to become involved in the City Government. We will also be looking into ways to set up email notification of City Council agendas. In addition to establishing regular office hours, I will also be establishing open office hours the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 11 am. effective May 3, 2008. Anyone is welcome to stop in and talk.

Downtown is a vital part of Burlington and I am committed to doing whatever we can to insure that it remains an important part of this city. We will be holding a planning session this year, involving the merchants from downtown the Chamber, the Banks and the City. The goal of the session will be to find ways of keeping downtown viable. Burlington is changing and growing. I understand that not everyone likes change, and we tend to stay with what we know and what is comfortable, however, we can and should be looking to the future. Controlling and managing the change can keep Burlington the great place to live, work and play.

We must and will become more responsive to the needs of our customers and employers, who are the citizens of Burlington. I challenge every City employee to seek out and find ways that we can save tax dollars. If there is a better way of doing something then bring that idea forward, let's explore and search out the better ways.

In closing, I feel proud and honored. Proud that you have elected me to lead our city into the future and honored to know that I represent some of the greatest citizens that any city has ever had. Let us move towards a Proud New Burlington together.

Thank-you,

Robert Miller
Mayor



Administrative News

THREE NEW COMMUNICATION DEVICES KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

The City of Burlington has launched three new communication devices to help keep the public informed of current news and events.

Along with this newsletter which will be published quarterly, City Administrator Kevin Lahner has released his new weblog and an electronic newsletter. This newsletter will be delivered to homes throughout the city and replace the monthly newsletter - The Burlington Spotlight currently located in the Burlington Standard Press. Mr. Lahner's blog is located at burlingtonadministrator.wordpress.com. It will feature Mr. Lahner's take on the day-to-day activities of managing the City of Burlington. Mr. Lahner intends to post information that is relevant and timely for Burlington's residents, and whomever else may be interested in what is happening in the city. Weblogs (or Blogs) are beginning to be utilized by City Managers/Administrators throughout the country as a means to keep the public informed, and provide valuable insight into the day-to-day operations of the city. Mr. Lahner's blog will not be open to public comments, except in rare circumstances where feedback is sought on a particular issue.

BURLINGTON MANUFACTURING AND OFFICE PARK CONTINUES TO PROSPER

The Common Council recently approved the site plan for RexCon's 100,000 square-foot building in the Burlington Manufacturing and Office Park (BMOP). RexCon is a manufacturer of mobile cement kilns, and are relocating from the Milwaukee area. The development of RexCon is another sign that Burlington continues to attract new investment in our community. The building is expected to be complete early next year. Additionally, the Common Council will soon be considering the sale of another 16 acres in the BMOP to a local manufacturer that plans to expand their operations here in Burlington. They will be joining already successful ventures located in the BMOP, including Scherrer Construction, Basset Wheels, and Circle Inc., among others. Both projects reflect the business friendly atmosphere and exceptional quality of life that Burlington offers. City staff expects the BMOP to be at 100 percent occupancy by late next year.

Public Works Department News

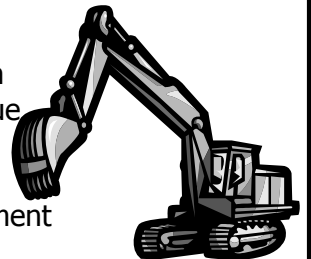
Sewer Irrigation Allowance



The Sewer Irrigation Allowance for water usage during the summer quarter will soon be in effect. During this period, there is more outdoor water usage (watering lawns/landscape, washing vehicles, and filling pools), which does not flow through the sewer. Therefore, during this quarter only, the sewer charge is NOT calculated based on the amount of water volume metered. Instead, the sewer rate for the summer quarter is calculated based on the customer's First Quarter (December - March) usage or the Second Quarter (March - June) usage, whichever amount is lower. The Sewer Irrigation Allowance is for single-family residential customers only and is for water usage from approximately mid-June through mid-September. If you fill your pool prior to mid June, please call the Water Utility for instruction on how to account for this savings. Any questions relating to the Sewer Irrigation Allowance may be directed to the Burlington Water Utility at 262-342-1173.

2008 Street and Sidewalk Improvement Program

The 2008 Street and Sidewalk Program will include areas along Schemmer Street, Herman Street, Edward Street, St. Mary's Street, Pine Street and Milwaukee Avenue/Droster Avenue. Reesman's Excavating and Grading, Inc. has been awarded this year's contract for street and sidewalk improvements, which are slated to be completed by this Fall. Repair to the Riverwalk concrete is also included in this contract. For questions, please call the Department of Public Works at (262) 763-2060.



Burlington Farmer's Market



Watch for the Burlington Farmer's Market to begin on Thursday, June 5 from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. along Washington Street. Due to the reconstruction project at the Veteran's Memorial Building, the market has been moved to a new location and time. Carol Reed and Greg Lemieux have spearheaded the move to the Downtown Historic District to revitalize this area. Several changes will be seen with the new market, included increased vendors, a wider variety of goods and weekly entertainment. Don't miss out on this incredible weekly event!

Burlington Dog Park

The Burlington Dog Park has moved to it's new location near St. Mary's Park off of Calumet Street. This new area provides a fenced in area surrounded by the beauty of forest land and sounds of the nearby Fox River. As always, dog owners are expected to clean up after their pets. For your convenience, bags and garbage cans are provided to make this task as effortless as possible. Please keep in mind that all dogs must be licensed with the City, which can be purchased at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street (262-342-1161). For the safety of all patrons, aggressive dogs are not allowed. Please remember use of the park is at your own risk.



So come see what all the excitement is about at the new City Dog Park!

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Safety Town

An annual program in June designed for children entering kindergarten each fall. Children learn about topics such as Stranger Danger, how to use 9-1-1, hand gun safety, poisons and Mr. Yuk, bicycle skills and how to safely cross streets. Call the Burlington Jaycees for information, 262-763-8713.



Bike Rodeo

The first Saturday in June brings the annual Bike Rodeo, which is most popular with children under 12 years of age. Activities include bicycle registration, distribution of free bike helmets, safety inspections and supervised practice for safe operation using obstacle courses and other common "hazards."

Register Your Bike

The City of Burlington Police Department has a bike registration program that is open to anyone. It takes less than five minutes to fill out the form to register your bike. If your bike is ever lost or stolen, we can use that information to enter the stolen bike into the state's computer system. The P.D. is open twenty four hours a day, every day of the year. When you have a free moment, please register your bike.



Pedestrian Safety

Please remember that drivers must yield to pedestrians when the driver is crossing a sidewalk, entering an alley or driveway, and when the pedestrian has started crossing at any intersection or a crosswalk. Drivers also are not allowed to pass any vehicle that has yielded to a pedestrian (or bicyclist).

People interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program should contact Chief Scot Eisenhauer (262) 342-1102.

FIRE Department News

Fire Department Annual Fundraiser



The City of Burlington has a total of forty-seven volunteer firefighters. Most of these volunteers have full-time jobs aside from firefighting and still make time for hours of training and monthly drills. There are also four full-time Fire Engineers that cover 24 hour shifts and are in charge of being the first responders to a call.

Within the month of June, you may notice fundraising information from the Fire Department arrive at your residence. On July 4th the Fire Department will host a dance at Echo Park with live music, food and raffles. Funds raised will help support Fire Department activities, training and educational programs for the coming year. The Fourth of July event is their major fund-raiser for the year. Please consider supporting our excellent ISO rated Class 3 Fire Department and volunteers. This rating ranks your Fire Department in the top 2% of the over 860 departments in the State of Wisconsin. If you'd like to learn more, you can visit the City web page at www.burlington-wi.gov.

Burning in the City



Please remember that open burning is not allowed in the city. Outdoor fires for the purpose of cooking, ceremonies and recreation will be permitted with the prior approval of the Fire Department. Contact the Fire Department at (262) 763-7842.



LIBRARY NEWS



ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION LIST

May 19:

"The Thirteenth Tale"
by Diane Setterfield.

June 23:

"The Camel Bookmobile"
by Masha Hamilton-
(speakerphone).

July 21:

"Population 485: Meeting
Your Neighbors One
Siren At A Time"
by Michael Perry
(possible phone visit).

August 25:

"The Worst Hard Time"
by Timothy Egan..

WISCONSIN GENEALOGY & HISTORY

Lori Bessler, Microforms Librarian and Outreach Coordinator will speak at the Burlington Public Library about the many resources available at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives for researchers interested in genealogy and history.

The Burlington Public Library and Burlington Genealogical Society are co-sponsoring this program on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. at Burlington Public Library. Lori has worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society since 1988. She has lectured throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on genealogical topics for over 15 years and has been researching family history for over 30 years. These programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required. For more information contact the Burlington Public Library at 262-342-1130.

SUMMER CHILDREN PROGRAMS



Summer Reading Program 2008

Catch the 'Reading Bug' at the Burlington Public Library this summer where children can explore the amazing world of bugs and enjoy other activities. Registration begins June 16. All activities are free and open to the public.

Storytimes begin the week of June 23. Call 763-7623 to register.

Lapsit Tuesdays - 9:15 a.m.

4 - 6's Tuesdays - 10a.m.

Toddler Wednesdays - 10 a.m.

Family Wednesdays - 1 p.m. or Thursdays - 6:30 p.m.

Lunch in the Park Gazebo Thursdays - 12:00 p.m.



Monday at the Movies

Every Monday afternoon at 1 p.m. beginning June 23, see a bug movie. Contact the Library for weekly titles.

Metamorphosis Programs - Change the Outside and the Inside

June 24, 6:30 p.m.: Biking by Bob Koldeway of Pedal Pushers.

July 1, 1 p.m.: Make Bug Treats with Miss Kris of Gooseberries.

July 9, 1 p.m.: Transition to a Young Woman by Trendsetters:
hair tips and easy makeup.

July 16, 1 p.m.: Eek! My computer has a bug and Internet Safety by
Michael Falk.

July 23, 1 p.m.: Self Image by Mary Ann Carlson.

July 30, 6:30 p.m.: Bee Keeping by Adeo LeDonne.



Storywagon Programs

Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

June 20 - Kay Weeden: Bi-Lingual Storyteller: "How do say EEK!
BUGS! in Spanish?"

June 27 - Karl Debelack: Magician: "Hopefully he won't hide Ants in
our Pants!"

July 11 - Allan Lieberman: Musician: "How many bug songs do you
know?"

July 18 - David Stokes: Naturalist: "Could there be bugs in the
Library?"

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRY

The Burlington Public Library is pleased to announce that Jerry Apps will present a talk on The Lighter Side of Life in the Country at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 8.

Jerry Apps is professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently works full time as a rural historian and writer. He has won the "Pride of Wisconsin" award from Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Award of Merit from the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Scholarly Book Award from the Council for Wisconsin Writers.

The Midwest in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s was a special place where parents and children worked side by side and neighbors stuck by each other through good times and disaster. Apps will read from *Every Farm Tells a Story*, *Country Wisdom*, and *Humor from the Country*. The audience will hear about the difficulty of farm life, as well as the humorous side of things, such as the author's adventures peddling rutabagas, what it was like hoeing on a hot June day, and when the funny papers were funny. Within each story we see how loving and supremely educational growing up on a farm can be, for it is here that youngsters learn not only how to chop the heads off chickens and drive a tractor like a grown-up, but also to deal with illness, disability, and death.



Announcements

- ☀ The 22nd Annual **ChocolateFest** will run from Friday, May 23 to Monday, May 26. A complete schedule and more information can be found at www.chocolatefest.com or on the ChocolateFest brochures which can be found at several local area businesses.
- ☀ The **Devor Park Pool** will be opening on Friday, May 30 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Beginning Thursday, June 12, the pool will be open from 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. daily. For more information call (262) 763-6840.
- ☀ The Veterans **Memorial Day parade** will be held on Monday, May 26 beginning at 9 a.m. The parade route will start at Kane Street and Wainwright Avenue, run along Kane Street to Milwaukee Avenue and end at the Veteran's Memorial Building.
- ☀ **Garbage and recycling** pickup will be delayed one day after the Memorial Day holiday and the Fourth of July holiday. Service for residents who typically have Friday pick up will occur on Saturday of that week. Questions can be directed to City Hall at (262) 342-1161.
- ☀ The **Library** will be celebrating their 100-year anniversary this year. Birthday festivities will be held all day on Friday, July 18 at the public library located at 116 E. Jefferson Street. Call (262) 342-1130 for more information.
- ☀ **Maxwell Street Days** will be on Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26 all day. There will be arts & crafts in Wehmhoff Square, along with music, food and sidewalk sales throughout the downtown area.
- ☀ The annual **Library Book Sale** will be held on Friday, July 25 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, July 26 from 9 a.m.- noon.
- ☀ **Reminder: the remaining balances for the 2007 Real Estate Taxes are due by July 31.** Please make your payment payable to the Racine County Treasurer, and send it to the Racine Court House, 730 Wisconsin Avenue, 1st Floor, Racine, WI, 53403 or take it to the Western Racine County Service Center, 209 N. Main Street in Burlington. Questions can be addressed at (262) 767-2900.

May Meetings

5/06 5:30 p.m.- Community Development Authority
5/06 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
5/07 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Commission
5/13 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
5/15 6:00 p.m. - Park Board
5/20 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
5/22 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
5/22 6:30 p.m. - Historic Preservation Committee
5/27 4:00 p.m. - Library Board

June Meetings

6/03 5:30 p.m.- Community Development Authority
6/03 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
6/04 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Commission
6/10 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
6/17 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
6/19 6:00 p.m. - Park Board
6/24 4:00 p.m. - Library Board
6/26 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
6/26 6:30 p.m. - Historic Preservation Committee

July Meetings

7/01 5:30 p.m.- Community Development Authority
7/01 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
7/02 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Commission
7/08 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
7/15 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
7/17 6:00 p.m. - Park Board
7/22 4:00 p.m. - Library Board
7/24 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
7/24 6:30 p.m. - Historic Preservation Committee

August Meetings

8/05 5:30 p.m.- Community Development Authority
8/05 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
8/06 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Commission
8/12 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
8/19 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
8/21 6:00 p.m. - Park Board
8/26 4:00 p.m. - Library Board
8/28 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
8/28 6:30 p.m. - Historic Preservation Committee